adhesive qualities are typically very distinct and different when bonding natural materials such as leather and fabric rather than polymeric materials.

When dealing with adhesives, one cannot simply substitute materials and expect the adhesive to work. One skilled in the art would acknowledge the fact that not all adhesives work with all materials that are to be adhered to one another. Thus it would not be obvious that any prior art adhesive would automatically be available to for bonding the non-polar materials to the polar materials, which are listed in the Applicants' invention. In fact, the Applicants did not recognize the fact that a similar type adhesive may be used for bonding polymeric polar materials rather than bonding leather and fabric as indicated in Sasongko for a number of years after the filing of the Sasongko'347 application.

As the Applicants' invention is directed to polar materials not taught in Sasongko, the Applicants believe that their claims are not anticipated by Sansongko'347.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasongko'347 in view of Strickland et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,820,719.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has indicated that it would be obvious to use a synthetic material as a polar material as taught in Strickland. For the reasons stated above, the Applicants do not agree with the Examiner. Thus, the Applicants believe that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Sasongko'347 in view of Strickland '719.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the amended claims and the claims dependent there from are in proper form. The Applicants respectfully contend that Sasongko '347 does not anticipate the claimed invention under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and the Applicants respectfully contend that the teachings of Sasongko, '347 in view of Strickland et al., '719 do not

establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Thus, claims 1-6 are considered to be patently distinguishable over the prior art of record.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene J. Powers
Registration No. 35,985
Gauthier & Connors LLP
225 Franklin Street, Suite 2300
Boston, Massachusetts 02110
Telephone: (617) 426-9180
Extension 110